

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-05 OPR-02 PA-01 SS-15
SY-05 A-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 INRE-00 EB-08
STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 USSS-00 OMB-01 /080 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8127
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 09200

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: OVIP (SASAKI, RYOSAKU), PINT, US, JA
SUBJECT: DSP CHAIRMAN PLANS WASHINGTON VISIT

SUMMARY: DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY (DSP) CHAIRMAN SASAKI PLANS EARLY WASHINGTON VISIT AND HAS, WE UNDERSTAND, REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT WHICH PM FUKUDA HAS SUPPORTED. (DSP HAS ASSUMED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO LDP AS PARTY WHOSE DIET COOPERATION IT CAN MOST EASILY OBTAIN WHEN LDP'S THIN MAJORITY MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GO IT ALONE ON NUMEROUS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.) AT SAME TIME, WE CONTINUE TO FACE NEED TO WORK WITHIN "COMPARABILITY PRINCIPLE" WHEN ARRANGING SCHEDULES FOR DSP AND OTHER MODERATE OPPOSITION DELEGATIONS. ACCORDINGLY, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND SASAKI APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT. WE ARE ALSO KEENLY AWARE OF EXTRAORDINARILY HEAVY DEMANDS ON VICE PRESIDENT'S TIME, BUT GIVEN PM FUKUDA'S PERSONAL INTEREST, WE WOULD HOPE THAT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, A BRIEF VICE PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT COULD BE ARRANGED. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM MOFA THAT DSP CHAIRMAN
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RYOSAKU SASAKI PLANS WASHINGTON VISIT AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME BEFORE MID-JULY BONN SUMMIT (AND PRESUMABLY AFTER JUNE 16 SCHEDULED DIET CLOSE). WE UNDERSTAND THAT SASAKI HAS ASKED TO SEE PRESIDENT AND THAT PM FUKUDA HAS PUT IN WORD FOR SASAKI. EMBASSY CHECK WITH DSP HEAD-QUARTERS INDICATES THAT DELEGATION'S COMPOSITION STILL UNCERTAIN, BUT THAT SASAKI'S PURPOSE IN GOING IS TO

CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH U.S. LEADERS, PARTICULARLY ON ECONOMIC THEMES, SUCH AS HE HAD DURING WASHINGTON VISIT LAST SEPTEMBER, WHEN HE WAS STILL VICE CHAIRMAN.

2. SINCE SASAKI'S PREVIOUS VISIT, LDP DEPENDENCE ON DSP FOR SMOOTH DIET OPERATION BECAME INCREASINGLY CLEAR. FROM STRICTLY U.S. VIEWPOINT, THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS TO WELCOME SASAKI VISIT. HIS PARTY STRONGLY SUPPORTS ADDITIONAL STIMULUS FOR JAPANESE ECONOMY (IN FORM OF TAX CUTS), EXPANDED IMPORTS, AND AID TO TROUBLED BUSINESS. SASAKI AND HIS PARTY ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORT U.S.-JAPAN DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP, ESTABLISHMENT OF DIET DEFENSE COMMITTEES, AND COMPLETE RESTUDY OF JAPAN'S DEFENSE POSTURE. MOREOVER, AMONG OPPOSITION PARTIES, DSP IS SOLE SUPPORTER OF CLOSE JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS. SASAKI, AS A FORMER ELECTRIC POWERS WORKER OFFICIAL, ALSO SUPPORTS BROADENED U.S.-JAPAN LABOR DIPLOMACY.

3. DESPITE PM'S ENDORSEMENT, WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT. WE ARE KEENLY AWARE OF IMPOSSIBLY HEAVY DEMANDS ON TIME OF HIGHEST USG LEADERS AND CONSCIOUS OF NEED TO WORK WITHIN CONFINES OF "COMPARABILITY PRINCIPLE" AS APPLIED TO OTHER MODERATE OPPOSITION DELEGATIONS. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, SUBSTITUTE MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE, GIVEN FUKUDA'S PERSONAL INTEREST. THERE IS ALSO SOME RISK THAT

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SASAKI, IF UNABLE TO MEET VICE PRESIDENT, WOULD NOT WISH TO GO THROUGH WITH WASHINGTON VISIT ON GROUNDS THAT VICE PRESIDENT HAD RECEIVED HIM AS DSP VICE CHAIRMAN, AND IT WOULD BE LETDOWN NOT TO SEE HIM AGAIN NOW THAT HE IS CHAIRMAN.

4. IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT WITH VICE PRESIDENT, OR IF SASAKI GOES AHEAD WITH VISIT IN ABSENCE OF APPOINTMENT, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT HE SEE ONE OR TWO CABINET LEVEL OFFICIALS SUCH AS SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL, SECRETARY BROWN, SECRETARY KREPS, SECRETARY MARSHALL OR STRAUSS. SESSIONS ON HILL WITH SENATOR GLENN AND OTHERS, PARTICULARLY SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN DEPENDENT ON UNION SUPPORT, COULD BE FRUITFUL. AT STATE WE RECOMMEND APPOINTMENTS WITH UNDERSECRETARY COOPER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE. SASAKI IS ARTICULATE IN JAPANESE, AND REPRESENTS WIDE SPECTRUM OF MIDDLE-ROAD JAPANESE THINKING, ESPECIALLY ON LABOR FRONT. WHATEVER HE BRINGS BACK WILL BE QUICKLY PASSED ON TO PM FUKUDA AND OTHER TOP JAPANESE OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS TO HIS OWN PARTY AND SUPPORTING DOMEI UNIONS.

5. WE UNDERSTAND JAPANESE EMBASSY WILL BE TAKING LEAD IN
ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS. MANSFIELD

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